

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 EA-13 EUR-10 IO-03

PRS-01 RSR-01 /072 W

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R 171055 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2596

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2184

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, AO, CG

SUBJECT: EX- KATANGAN GENDARMES IN ANGOLA

REF: LUANDA 0162

1. IF BRIGGS' ASSUMPTION CORRECT THAT ANGOLAN GOVGEN HOPES HIS REPORT WILL REACH MOBUTU, THIS INDICATES DISQUIETING LACK OF INSIGHT INTO MOBUTU' S CHARACTER ON GOVGEN' S PART. ONE CAN UNDERSTAND PORTUGUESE UNEASINESS OVER CURRENT EFFORTS TO UNITE MPLA AND FNLA, PARTICULARLY IN ABSENCE (SO FAR AS WE AWARE) OF ANY SIGN THAT MOBUTU HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT ENCOURAGING SUCH UNION. FOR WHAT IT MAY BE WORTH, WE HAVE HAD IMPRESSION HE IS CONFIDENT HE CAN CONTROL PACE OF DEVELOPMENTS. AND SOME WEIGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO HIS TACIT ACCEPTANCE THUS FAR OF AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS WITH ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES IN MATTERS WHERE ZAIRIAN INTERESTS AT STAKE (I. E. USE OF GENGUELA RAILROAD AND LOBITO).

2. BUT RESPONSIBLE PORTUGUESE SHOULD KNOW MOBUTU BETTER: IF HE GETS WIND OF DELIBERATE PORTUGUESE THREAT TO TRY TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO KATANGAN INSURGENCY IN EXILE, HIS
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MOST LIKELY REACTION, IN MY VIEW, WOULD BE TO ALERT WORLD
OPINION AND STEP UP THE PRESSURE ON THE PORTUGUESE. ALSO,
SHOULD BE NOTED THAT KATANGAN SECESSION MOVEMENT IS MORE
MORIBUND EVEN THAN LATE BIAFRA.

3. FINALLY, THERE ARE ONLY A HANDFUL OF CHINESE IN
KINSHASA AT PRESENT. AS FAR AS EMBASSY AWARE, ONLY 14

CHINESE VISITED SHABA BRIEFLY LAST MONTH TO SURVEY POSSIBLE
AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS. THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO RPT NO
LARGE NUMBERS OF CHINESE TO CAUSE FRICTION WITH LOCAL
POPULATION.
VANCE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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